

Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority

Board Meeting Agenda

July 17, 2024 – Minnesota PCA Headquarters, Room 100 / Hybrid Meeting

9:30	Welcome	Chair
9:32	Approval of Agenda	Chair
9:35	Approval of Minutes May 15 Meeting	Chair
9:40	Management Analysis and Development (MAD) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on progress of investment strategy and strategic plan• Review mission, vision, values• Discuss engagement plan	Lisa Anderson, Stacy Sjogren, Stephanie Klein, Nicholas Kor
10:55	Future Funding Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coalition for Green Capital-\$25 Million• Solar For All• Department of Energy Loan Program Office	Peter Klein & Brendon Slotterback
11:00	Project Financing Discussion- See attachment	Peter Klein
11:15	Executive Director Position Posting	Peter Klein
11:25	Open Discussion / Other Items	Chair
11:30	Adjourn	Chair



Meeting Minutes: Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority Board of Directors

Date: 05/15/2024

Minutes prepared by: Parisa Rostamkhani

Location: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Conference Room 009 / Hybrid

Attendance:

- The meeting began at approximately 9:31am
- Present: Kumar, Haagenson, Fowler, Kohlasch, Nelmark, Perushek, Sultanova, Teiken, Warmuth
- Wyckoff: Joined at 9:40am, Benjamin: Joined at 9:45am
- Absent: McKinnon.

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion: Fowler, Second: Warmuth
- Unanimous approval - roll call vote

Approval of Minutes from the May 15, 2024 Board Meeting:

- Motion: Nelmark, Second: Teiken
- Unanimous approval - roll call vote.

Management Analysis and Development (MAD):

- Stacey Sjogren and Lisa Anderson provided a high-level overview for the process and structure of strategic plan, investment strategy, and public engagement within MnCIFA. The iterative process will have a high-level timeline with many dependencies.
- Strategic Plan:
 - An administrative tool that the board may influence “higher” aspects.
 - Informed at highest levels by statutes and vision statement.
 - Elements suggested: Priorities, supporting strategies, action steps.
 - Informed at lower levels by guiding principles.
- Question for discussion: Does this description of strategic plans and the possible types of priorities align with the general thinking of the board?
 - **Public Comment:** Katherine Teiken commented that we’ll have to update the strategic plan every two years, and to make sure it is being set up for future success. Thinking through the possible priorities listed and wondering if these are going to be the same priorities in two years, and does it make sense to change priorities every two years, or carry them over?
- Investment Strategy:
 - Informed by and often part of a strategic plan.

- Establishes principles designed to help MnCIFA achieve investment goals.
- Ensures mission, vision, and values are reflected in MnCIFA operations.
- Provides framework/consideration to identify focused project types, financing gaps, and partnerships/tools most likely to facilitate with the success of MnCIFA.
- Supports sound financial practices and risk management.
- Question for discussion: Thoughts on investment strategy?
 - **Public Comment:** Joe Fowler questioned if we want to have a list of how many people within the disadvantaged community benefited from it, and if that would be a checklist on the investment. Lisa Anderson responded that is one approach that can be taken to measure performance of how many people we serve, how much did we do, etc.
- Public Engagement:
 - Tailored to individuals and groups who can have a direct affect, or are directly affected by, the work MnCIFA is doing.
 - Provides clarity on the information sought and how MnCIFA will use it.
 - Differs from information extraction because it initiates or develops a relationship for two-way communication.
- Public Engagement Process:
 - Review work that's been done to date, identify gaps and follow up questions.
 - Identify interested parties and goals for engagement.
 - Conduct stakeholder analysis.

Open Discussion:

- Discussion of employment strategy and working with MAD about the position description for Executive Director, as well as Chief Operating Officer sometime in the second quarter.
- Looking to fill a Controller HR position; someone with background as a state employee and knowledge of the state system.
- Enterprise employee resources team that recruits within MMB, that assists with the executive level recruitment, as well as the agency SMART within the Department of Administration. They provide HR and Finance services, but unaware of their full extent and pricing structure.
- Future lending capabilities consist of \$45 million, and 25% of it can be deployed before the strategic plan and investment strategy are in place. There are also contracts with MAD and Department of Commerce, so essentially \$5 million is left, as \$4.7 million plus has been deployed.
- Expecting \$25 million from Inflation Reduction Act through the Environmental Protection Agency allocation to Coalition for Green Capital. This money will flow through the CGC's \$5 billion of which we will get a pro rata share. Funds are not limited to the 25% restriction so we can deploy those funds when received. Timing on when is in question, but thinking funds will be in hand by third quarter.
- Commerce received \$62 million for Solar for All, and MnCIFA will try to help deploy those funds through various projects. This will help climate justice communities as 100% of the Solar for All funds must be deployed there.

- Looking at leveraging our funds by going to the loan program office of the Department of Energy. Minimum request is \$100 million. Would like to proceed with \$150 million of projects for Solar on School. The Loan Program Office underwriting will be easier and quicker.
- Responses to RFI's from multiple agencies, such as University of Minnesota, Minnesota State, MMB, and other public entities. Minnesota State has projects in excess of a billion dollars, as well as MMB.
- Looking to go after the \$80 billion funding pool at the LPO. Must act quickly as other bigger states are going to go after it as well.
- Will not deploy any of remaining \$5 million outside of the environmental justice communities.

- **Public Comment:**

- Brendon Slotterback mentioned several EPA awardees will also have national lending pools. MnCIFA has funding directly from CGC, but CGC itself will also have a national lending pool as will some of the other awardees of EPA. They are in negotiations right now with EPA about what their projects and budgets look like finalized. MnCIFA is in a good position.
- Update on vacant board seat: will know by June 17.
- No June Board Meeting. There will be a virtual Public Strategic Planning and Investment Committee meeting on June 6 at 9am as well as a virtual Quarterly Public Input meeting on June 10 at 5:30pm. Link to meeting will follow.

Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion: Fowler, Second: Teiken
- Unanimous approval – roll call vote
- Meeting ended approximately 11:05am